



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Panel looking into Trump assassination attempt says Secret Service needs 'fundamental reform'

By REBECCA SANTANA  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — An independent panel investigating the attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a Pennsylvania campaign rally says the Secret Service needs "fundamental reform" and new leadership, and that "another Butler can and will happen again" without major changes in how candidates are protected. The review faulted the Secret Service for poor communications that day and failing to secure the building where the gunman took his shots. It also found more systemic issues at the agency such as a failure to understand the unique risks facing Trump and a culture of doing "more with less."



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump reacts following an assassination attempt at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., July 13, 2024.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

**For the BEST & the BIGGEST Steak**  
*and so much more!*

**Lobby Bar Menu**

**FRIDAYS**  
**2 FOR 1 Sangria**

**Lunch Special**  
**EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM**

**\$28.90** +15%SC  
TAX IS INCLUDED.

**Local Deal**  
**SATURDAY**

**15%OFF** For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Mondays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • www.elgaucho-aruba.com

**Choice of Appetizers**

**Seafood Bisque**  
A cup of the Chef's creative soup consisting of an assortment of Fish, Shellfish, Cognac and Cream

**Vegan Frisee and Tomato Salad**  
Mixed Lettuce, Marinated Tomatoes, Cored Cucumbers, Pickled Red Onions with a Fennel/Basil/Garlic Vinaigrette

**Seafood Ceviche**  
Morsels of Fish, Shrimp, Squid, Roasted Corn and Pickled Red Onions marinated in Lime Juice

**Black Angus Mini Slider**  
Grilled to your liking with Cheddar Cheese and Tomato Salsa

**Mild Spicy Aruban Fish Cakes**  
Hand formed fresh home-made Fish Cakes drizzled with a Cool Pineapple-Curry Mayo and Tomato Salsa

**Pinchos Grill & Bar**

**DINNER FOR TWO**  
**SUMMER 2024**  
Available after 8:00pm  
Valid June-September 2024

**Choice of Dessert**

**Triple Chocolate Brownie a la Mode** - Topped with Chocolate Ice Cream  
**Vegan Mango Sorbet** - Served with fresh fruit  
Dessert of the day

**Choice of Main Dish**

**Grilled Asian Chicken Breast**  
Jasmine rice, Stir-fried Bokchoy, Fried Onions, Asian Glaze

**Maple Bourbon BBQ Cowbo y Pincho**  
Includes Chorizo (sausage), Black Angus Tenderloin, Pork Tenderloin and Chicken Breast on a skewer, Red Beet Mashed Potato, Sautéed Green Beans and Maple Bourbon BBQ Sauce

**Surf and Turf Pincho**  
Shrimp & Fillet Mignon, House rice, Green Beans, Bold Garlic Butter Sauce

**Grilled Garlic Shrimp**  
Forbidden Black Rice, Sautéed Vegetables and an Apricot and Ginger Sauce

**Fish Duo**  
Assortment of fish, Jasmine Rice, Sautéed Kale and Spinach, Creole Sauce and Mango Salsa

**Mediterranean Couscous with fresh vegetables**  
Vegan  
Oven-roasted Root Vegetables, Peruvian Potatoes and Tomato-Rosemary Sauce


**Dinner for Two \$100.00 + 15% service charge Price of \$100.00**  
**Includes 2 appetizers, 2 entrees, 2 desserts, and a bottle of red or white wine.**

reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com

Telephone: +297 583 2666


www.pinchosaruba.com





**DON'T MISS!**  
SIGN UP FOR OUR LOYALTY CARD

New members sign up and receive **\$10**  
Existing members **PLAY 5 POINTS**  
and receive **\$10 FREE PLAY!**



J.E IRAUSQUIN BLVD 83, NOORD AT BARCELÓ ARUBA. T +297 2804000

## Panel looking into Trump assassination attempt says Secret Service needs 'fundamental reform'

Continued from Front

The 52-page report issued Thursday recommended bringing in new, outside leadership and refocusing on the Secret Service's protective mission.

"The Secret Service as an agency requires fundamental reform to carry out its mission," the authors wrote Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of the Homeland Security Department, the Secret Service's parent agency, in a letter accompanying their report. "Without that reform, the Independent Review Panel believes another Butler can and will happen again." One rallygoer was killed and two others wounded when Thomas Matthew Crooks climbed onto the roof of a nearby building and opened fire as Trump spoke. The former president was wounded in the ear before being rushed off the stage by Secret Service agents. That shooting, along with another incident in Florida when Trump was golfing — a gunman there never got a line of site on the president or fired a shot — has led to a crisis in confidence in the agency. The report by a panel of four former law enforcement officials from national and state government follows investigations by members of Congress, the agency's own investigators and by Homeland Security's oversight body. The Secret Service said it was making changes.

"We have already significantly improved our readiness, operational and organizational communications and implemented enhanced protective operations for the former president and other protect-



**Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump is helped off the stage at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., July 13, 2024.**

Associated Press

ees," the agency's acting director Ronald Rowe said in a statement Thursday. The agency said it was looking at how to retain personnel, modernize technology and bolster training, and was working with Congress to increase funding.

Mayorkas said in a statement that his department is taking action in response to "the security failures" at the rally and what the review panel "describes as systemic and foundational issues that underlie those failures." A look at the report's key findings and recommendations:

Poor communications, no plan for key buildings

The panel echoed previous reports that have zeroed in on the failure to secure the building near the rally that had a clear line of site to where Trump was speaking and the multiple communications problems that hindered the ability of the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement to talk to each other. The panel faulted the planning between Secret Service and the local law enforcement, and said the Secret Service failed to ask about what was being

done to secure the building: "Relying on a general understanding that 'the locals have that area covered' is simply not good enough and, in fact, at Butler this attitude contributed to the security failure."

The review questioned why there were two separate command posts at the rally and found other communications problems, including the need to switch radio channels because radio traffic from agents protecting first lady Jill Biden at an event in Pittsburgh was coming across the channels of agents who were with Trump. Also, law enforcement personnel on the ground used a "chaotic mixture" of radio, cell phone, text, and e-mail. And it was unclear who had ultimate command that day.

Cultural issues within the agency The report painted a picture of an agency struggling to think critically about how it carries out its mission, especially when it comes to protecting Trump.

The panel said agency personnel operated under the assumption that they effectively had to "do more with

less." The report said the additional security measures taken to protect Trump after the Butler shooting should have been taken before.

"To be clear, the Panel did not identify any nefarious or malicious intent behind this phenomenon, but rather an overreliance on assigning personnel based on categories (former, candidate, nominee) instead of an individualized assessment of risk," the panel wrote.

The panel also noted the "back-and-forth" between the Trump security detail and Secret Service headquarters regarding how many people were needed to protect him.

The panel also faulted some of the senior-level staff who were involved in the rally for what they called a "lack of ownership." In one example, the panel said a senior agent on site who was tasked with coordinating communications didn't walk around the rally site ahead of time and did not brief the state police counterpart before the rally about how communications would be managed.

It cited the relative inexperience of two specific agents who played a role in security for the July 13 rally. One was the site agent from Trump's detail whose job it was to coordinate with the Pittsburgh field office on security planning for the rally. The panel said the agent graduated from the Secret Service academy in 2020, and had only been on the Trump detail since 2023. Before the Butler rally the agent had only done "minimal previous site advance work or site security planning."

Another agent assigned

to operate a drone detection system had only used the technology at two prior events.

What did the panel recommend?

The panel recommended new leadership, specifically from outside the agency, but the report did not say whether anyone should be fired.

Other recommendations included: having a unified command post at all large events; overhead surveillance for all outdoor events; security plans that specify how to mitigate line of site concerns out to 1,000 yards and who's in charge; and more training on how to get protectees out of dangerous scenarios.

The panel said the agency needs renewed focus on its core protective mission while expressing skepticism that the agency should continue with the investigations it currently conducts. While the Secret Service is well known for what it does to protect presidents and other dignitaries, it also investigates financial crimes. "In the Panel's opinion, it is simply unacceptable for the Service to have anything less than a paramount focus on its protective mission, particularly while that protective mission function is presently suboptimal," the report said.

Panel members included Janet Napolitano, homeland security secretary under President Barack Obama; Mark Filip, deputy attorney general under President George W. Bush; David Mitchell, who served in numerous state and local law enforcement roles in Maryland and Delaware; and Frances Fragos Townsend, Bush's assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism. □

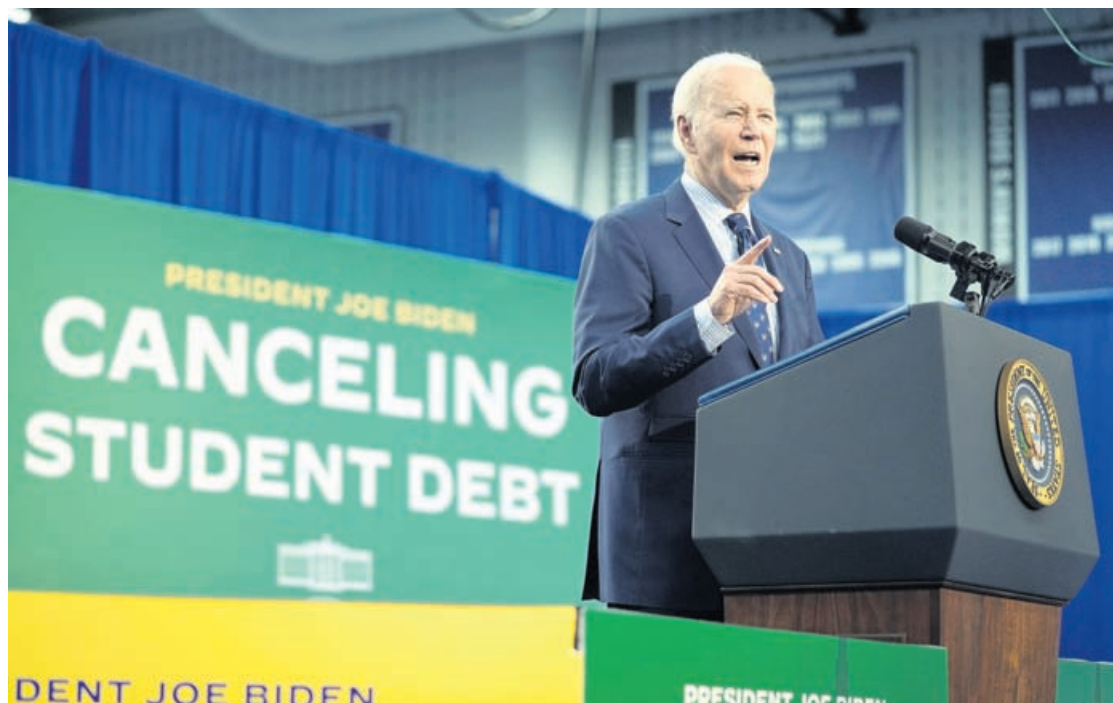


# The Biden administration has now canceled loans for more than 1 million public workers

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
AP Education Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A student loan cancellation program for public workers has granted relief to more than 1 million Americans up from just 7,000 who were approved before it was updated by the Biden administration two years ago. President Joe Biden announced the milestone on Thursday, saying his administration restored a promise to America's teachers, firefighters, nurses and other public servants. He celebrated it even as his broader student loan plans remain halted by courts following legal challenges by Republican-led states.

"For too long, the government failed to live up to its commitments," Biden said in a statement. "We vowed to fix that, and because of actions from our administration, now over 1 million public service workers have gotten the relief they are entitled to under the law." The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program was created in 2007, promising college graduates that the remainder of their federal



President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt, April 8, 2024, in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

student loans would be zeroed out after 10 years working in government or nonprofit jobs. But starting in 2017, the vast majority of applicants were rejected because of complicated and little-known eligibility rules. A 2018 report from the Government Accountability Office found that 99% of applicants were denied, often because they weren't in the right loan re-

payment plan or because their payments had temporarily been paused through deferment or forbearance periods that weren't counted toward the 10 years of public work.

The GAO faulted the Education Department for failing to make the rules clear. The program was the subject of legal and political battles, with Democrats in Congress calling on the

Trump administration to loosen the rules and uphold the spirit of the program. Betsy DeVos, the education secretary at the time, countered that she was faithfully following the rules passed by Congress. Declaring that the program was "broken," the Biden administration in 2021 offered a temporary waiver allowing borrowers to get credit for past periods of

deferment or forbearance, among other changes. A year later, the Education Department updated the rules to expand eligibility more permanently. Since then, waves of borrowers have been approved for cancellation as they reach the 10-year finish line. On Thursday, 60,000 more hit the mark, pushing the total past 1 million. When Biden took office, just 7,000 borrowers had been granted relief over the previous four years.

In all, the program has erased \$74 billion in loans for public workers.

"I want to send a message to college students across America that pursuing a career in public service is not only a noble calling but a reliable pathway to becoming debt-free within a decade," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement.

After facing legal challenges to Biden's own student loan plans, his administration has increasingly shifted attention to the record sums of loan cancellation granted through existing programs. □

# Homeland Security grants temporary status to Lebanese already in the United States

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration on Thursday announced temporary legal status for Lebanese citizens already in the United States, likely pleasing some Arab voters, including in the battleground state of Michigan. The announcement, together with an earlier offer in July, brings the number of Lebanese who will be able to stay in the country and become eligible for work authorization to about 11,000, according to the Homeland Security Department. The offer is for people already in the US on Wednesday and it is for a period of 18 months. Temporary Protected Status will allow Lebanese citizens to stay "while the United States is in discus-

sions to achieve a diplomatic solution for lasting stability and security across the Israel-Lebanon border," Homeland Security said in a statement. They must have been in the United States on Wednesday. Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have been forced to deal with conflict in Lebanon and across the Mideast in the final weeks of their White House campaign.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza. In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon

and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of northern Israel to return.

Assad I. Turfe, deputy executive of Wayne County, Michigan, said TPS "will provide critical support to Lebanese nationals, helping to reunite families here in America and offering relief from the challenges caused by the conflict." Nearly 900,000 people were covered by TPS at the end of March, according to the Congressional Research Service. The 1990 law provides legal status to people already in the United States from countries hit by natural disasters or civil strife. In addition, some Palestinians, Lebanese, Liberians,

and residents of Hong Kong living in the United States are covered by a similar program, called Deferred Enforcement Departure,

which is run under the authority of the president instead of the Homeland Security Department. □



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, left, turns to the screen to introduce Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, on screen, who joined the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024.

Associated Press



# Judge orders Afghan man accused of planning Election Day attack in U.S. to remain in custody

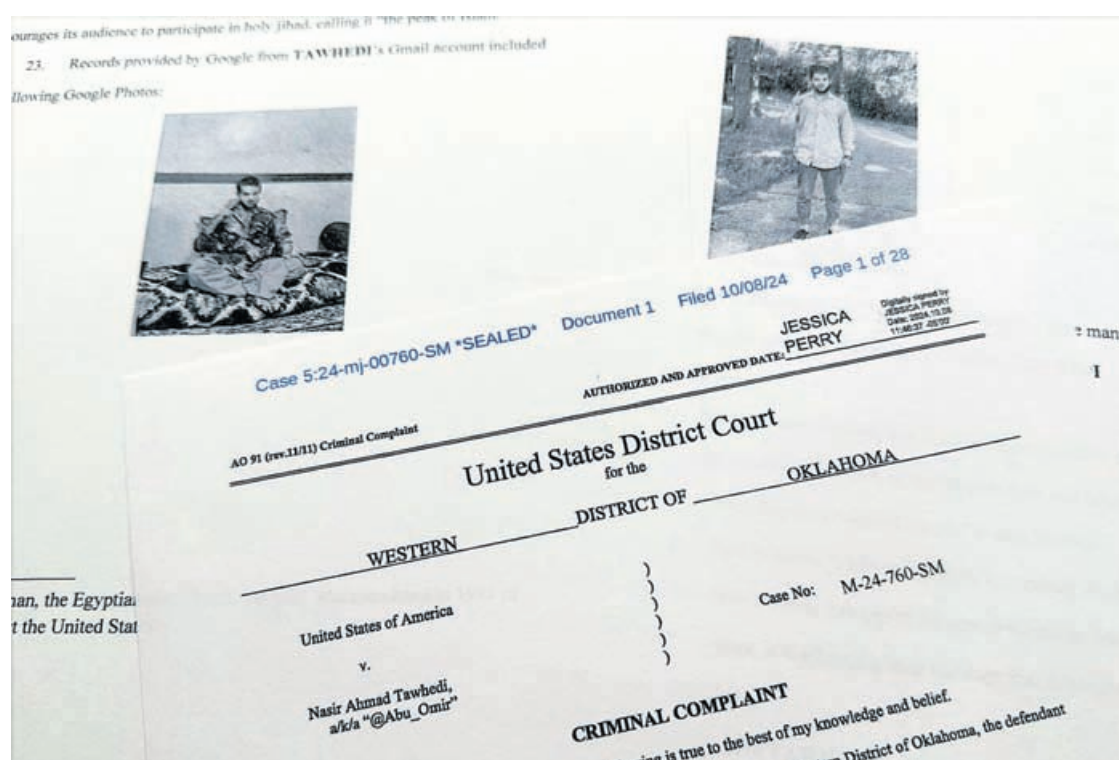
By SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

An Afghan man who is accused of plotting an Election Day attack in the U.S. was ordered Thursday to remain in custody as officials disclosed that he had previously worked as a security guard for an American military installation in Afghanistan.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Suzanne Mitchell in Oklahoma City issued her ruling after hearing testimony from an FBI special agent that Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City, and his brother-in-law, a juvenile, took steps to obtain AK-47 rifles and ammunition and planned to carry out an attack targeting large crowds on Election Day next month. Mitchell also determined there was probable cause to bind Tawhedi over for trial. FBI agent Derek Wiley testified that Tawhedi also is linked to an investigation in France that led to the arrests this month of three people, including two of Tawhedi's brothers, who authorities say were plotting a terrorist attack in that country. One of those arrested in France, a 22-year-



The criminal complaint, filed by the Justice Department, against Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City is photographed Tuesday, Oct. 8, after the FBI arrested the man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organization and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the U.S.

Associated Press

old Afghan who had residency papers in France, was being investigated for a suspected plan to attack people in a soccer stadium or shopping center. Authorities say both Tawhedi and those arrested in France were inspired by Islamic State ideology. The Justice Department said earlier that Tawhedi

had entered the U.S. on a special immigrant visa in September 2021 shortly after Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul was captured by the Taliban, and had been on parole pending a determination of his immigration status. In court Thursday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Dillon told the judge that Tawhedi

had been temporarily allowed into the U.S. while he had a pending application for resident status, but that his parole status has since been revoked. Tawhedi, bearded and with dark tousled hair, was led into the courtroom with his hands shackled around his waist and flanked by two U.S. marshals. Both he and

his attorney, Craig Hoehns, wore a headset to communicate, and a Dari language interpreter was provided by the court.

Wiley testified that Tawhedi had been under observation by federal agents for more than 40 days before his arrest on Oct. 7. He said Tawhedi subsequently admitted to investigators that he and his co-conspirator planned their attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that they expected to die as martyrs in the attack.

Wiley said Tawhedi had used the online messaging application Telegram to communicate with an account associated with the Islamic State militant organization that was directing his actions, and that Tawhedi had sworn allegiance to the group and "would do whatever they told him to." In arguing for home detention while awaiting trial, Hoehns suggested that the only weapon Tawhedi ever handled in the U.S. was given to him by a government informant and that Tawhedi had never been arrested or even received a traffic citation in three years in the U.S. □

# Rare copy of the U.S. Constitution up for auction is expected to sell for millions

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

A rare copy of the U.S. Constitution printed 237 years

ago sent to the states to be ratified is being auctioned Thursday evening in North Carolina.



Auctioneer Andrew Brunk, left, and historian Seth Kaller, right show off a 1787 copy of the U.S. Constitution that will be put up for auction at Brunk Auctions in Asheville, N.C., on Sept. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

Brunk Auctions is selling the copy the only of its type thought to be in private hands. The minimum bid of \$1 million has already been made. There is no minimum price that must be reached.

This copy was printed after the Constitutional Convention finished drafting the proposed framework of the nation's government in 1787 and sent it to the Congress of the ineffective first American government under the Articles of Confederation, requesting they send it to the states to be ratified by the people.

It's one of about 100 copies printed by the secretary of that Congress, Charles

Thomson. Just eight are known to still exist and the other seven are publicly owned.

Thomson likely signed two copies for each of the original 13 states, essentially certifying them.

What happened to the document up for auction between Thomson's signature and 2022 is not known. Two years ago, a property was being cleared out in Edenton in eastern North Carolina that was once owned by Samuel Johnston. He was the governor of North Carolina from 1787 to 1789 and oversaw the state convention during his last year in office that ratified the Constitution.

The copy was found inside a squat, two-drawer metal filing cabinet with a can of stain on top, in a long-neglected room piled high with old chairs and a dusty book case, before the old Johnston house was preserved. The document was a broad sheet that could be folded one time like a book.

Along with the Constitution on the broad sheet printed front and back is a letter from George Washington asking for ratification. He acknowledged there will have to be compromise and that rights the states enjoyed will have to be given up for the nation's long-term health. □



## Israel says it has killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, MELANIE LIDMAN and WAFAA SHURAF

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli forces in Gaza killed Hamas' top leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war, the military said Thursday. Troops appeared to have run across him unknowingly in a battle, only to discover afterwards that a body in the rubble was Israel's most wanted man. Israeli leaders celebrated his killing as a settling of scores, just over a year after Hamas-led militants surged out of Gaza into southern Israel in an attack that stunned the country. They also presented it as a moment for Hamas to surrender and release some 100 hostages it still holds captive. Still, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "Our war has not yet ended." Besides seeking the release of hostages, Netanyahu has said Israel must keep long-term control over Gaza to ensure Hamas does not rearm opening the possibility of continued fighting. For Hamas, Sinwar's death is a crippling blow, but it has continually proven resilient during the war. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of Sinwar's death.



**Yahya Sinwar, head of Hamas in Gaza, chairs a meeting with leaders of Palestinian factions at his office in Gaza City, on April 13, 2022.**

Associated Press

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant addressed Hamas fighters, saying it "is time to go out, release the hostages, raise your hands, surrender." President Joe Biden called Sinwar's death a "good day for Israel, for the United States, and for the world," comparing it to the feeling in the U.S. after the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. He said he would talk with Netanyahu "to discuss the pathway for bringing the hostages home to their families, and for ending this war

once and for all." Sinwar has been Hamas' top leader inside the Gaza Strip for years, closely connected to its military wing while dramatically building up its capabilities. He was elevated to Hamas' highest spot in July after his predecessor Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an apparent Israeli strike in the Iranian capital Tehran. In the past months, Israel has eliminated a string of senior figures from Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah with airstrikes. Israel has claimed

to have killed the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike, but the group has said he survived. But in Sinwar's case, troops found him by chance. An Israeli military official said that Sinwar "engaged in combat" with Israeli troops operating in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, and was spotted running into a building. The army struck the building with tank fire. The army had suspected a number of top Hamas officials including Sinwar were

in the vicinity, but Sinwar was not the target of that day's specific operations, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity under military briefing rules. Visiting the site of the killing, Israel's army chief Herzi Halevi said that while the military had conducted "many special operations in this war where we had excellent information. Here, we didn't have that and the response was very, very strong." Photos circulating online showed the body of a man resembling Sinwar with a gaping head wound, dressed in a military-style vest, half buried in the rubble of a destroyed building. The security official confirmed the photos were taken by Israeli security officials at the scene. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation. The military said three militants were killed in the operation. Police said one of them was confirmed as Sinwar by dental records and fingerprints, and DNA tests were ongoing. Sinwar was imprisoned by Israel from the late 1980s until 2011, and during that time he underwent treatment for brain cancer — leaving Israeli authorities with extensive medical records. □

## Africa's mpox deaths surpass 1,000 as health officials urge international support

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA

Associated Press

**KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)** — The number of mpox-related deaths in Africa has surpassed 1,000, the head of the continent's top public health agency said Thursday, warning of the continuing threat of cross-border contamination and a lack of rapid test kits. There were 50 mpox-related deaths in the past week, bringing the total to 1,100, indicating that authorities face a challenge in stemming outbreaks currently affecting 18 of the continent's 55 nations, said Jean Kaseya, director general of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We are still fighting with this outbreak," Kaseya said. "We don't want to see all African countries affected." Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes milder symptoms, including fever, chills and body aches. People with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals. Kaseya said the trend shows mpox in Africa "is going out of control if we don't act," and urged international partners to honor their pledges to support Africa's response. "This is my clear message to our partners. We acknowledge their pledge, but we need quickly to trans-

late pledge into concrete money to support the response," he said. The estimated budget for a six-month plan put forward by Africa CDC and the World Health Organization is almost \$600 million, with 55% allocated to the response to mpox in 14 affected nations and boosting readiness in 15 others. Zambia and Zimbabwe became the latest African countries to confirm mpox cases in the past week, Kenya recorded its first death from mpox, and a case was confirmed in a prison in central Uganda, according to Africa CDC. The case in Zambia was detected in a truck driver. Mpox, also known as mon-

keypox, had been spreading mostly undetected for years in Africa before a 2022 global outbreak in which wealthy countries

quickly responded with vaccines from their stockpiles, while Africa received fewer doses despite pleas from its governments. □



**A man receives a vaccination against mpox, at the General hospital, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024.**

Associated Press



# Pakistani police fire tear gas at protesting students as anger spreads over alleged on-campus rape

By **BABAR DOGAR** and **MU-NIR AHMED**

Associated Press

**LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)** —

Pakistani police fired tear gas and charged at student protesters who ransacked a college building Thursday, as anger spread over an alleged on-campus rape, prompting the government to shut schools, colleges and universities for two days. Tensions have been high on college campuses since reports of the alleged rape in the eastern city of Lahore spread on social media, and protests have broken out in four cities.

Sexual violence against women is common in Pakistan, but it is underreported because of the stigma attached in the conservative country. Protests about the issue have been rare.

Thursday's violence started when hundreds of students demonstrated outside a campus in the city of Rawalpindi in Punjab province.



**A plainclothes police officer detains a demonstrator during a students' protest over an alleged on-campus rape in Punjab, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.**

Associated Press

They burned furniture and blocked a key road, disrupting traffic, before ransacking a college building.

Police responded by swinging batons and firing tear

gas to disperse them, police official Mohammad Afzal said.

Police said they arrested 250 people, mostly students, on charges of disrupting the

peace. News of the arrests panicked parents, who struggled to get their children released.

In Gujrat, also in Punjab province, a security guard

died in clashes between student protesters and police on Wednesday. Police arrested a person in connection with the death.

They also arrested a man who is accused of spreading misinformation on social media about the alleged rape and inciting students to violence.

Earlier this week, more than two dozen college students were injured in clashes with police in Lahore after they rallied to demand justice for the alleged victim, who they said was raped on campus at the Punjab Group of Colleges.

On Thursday, the government banned rallies and shut educational institutions in Punjab for two days, apparently to prevent more protests, officials said.

The Federal Investigation Agency said it has registered cases against 36 people accused of spreading misinformation about the case on social media. □

# Zeta drug lord continued to control cartel from inside a Mexican prison, says U.S. indictment

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — A U.S. indictment unsealed Wednesday in the District of Columbia claims that the leader of one of Mexico's most violent gangs continued to run an offshoot group, the Northeast Cartel, from inside a Mexican prison.

Miguel Angel Treviño Morales, alias "Zeta 40," was a founder and leader of the notorious Zetas cartel. He has been in a Mexican prison since his arrest in 2013. Together with the killing of the Zetas' other top leader in 2012, the old cartel, which spread terror throughout Mexico with bloody massacres, basically fell apart.

The indictment says the new Northeast Cartel was created and run by Treviño Morales and his brother Omar who was arrested in 2015 as a successor organization to the Zetas. The brothers allegedly got their relatives to run day-to-day operations for the new

gang. Those accusations represent a grim comment on the lack of security at Mexican prisons, where in-

mates can often hold large numbers of relatively unsupervised meetings with lawyers and relatives, allowing

them to pass messages to the outside.

The defendants renamed the Zetas to "Cartel Del Nordeste" or CDN, according to the indictment, which adds they "continued to control the Cartel and installed various family members to operate the CDN after their incarceration."

The new indictment accuses the brothers of drug, conspiracy, money laundering, criminal enterprise and other offenses that could get them up to life in prison. The U.S. has filed a request for the extradition of Miguel Angel Treviño Morales, but it has been held up for about a decade by court appeals.

Drug lords in Mexico usually fight extradition tooth and nail, in part because they can continue to run their gangs if they stay in Mexican prisons.

In 2022, one of those relatives who allegedly ran the day to day operations

of the CDN cartel, Juan Gerardo Treviño — whose alias was "El Huevo" or "The Egg" was captured and deported to the United States because he apparently had U.S. citizenship, thus avoiding the long route of extradition.

The CDN cartel dominates the border city of Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas.

Like the Zetas, the Northeast gang is ruthlessly violent. It regularly carries out violent shooting attacks on army patrols there, and just last week one soldier was killed there in a shootout. President Claudia Sheinbaum said earlier this week that "Nuevo Laredo is where criminal groups have carried out the most attacks on the army and the National Guard."

U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza of the Western District of Texas, said the Treviño Morales brothers had committed "horrible atrocities." □



**This file photo shows a mug shot, released on July 15, 2013 by Mexico's Interior Ministry, of Zetas drug cartel leader Miguel Angel Treviño Morales after his arrest in Mexico.**

Associated Press



# Why Oceanfront Condo Prices in Aruba Are Set to Skyrocket



**Imagine waking up every morning to the sound of gentle waves and stepping onto white sandy beaches under the Caribbean sun. This dream is not just a reality for those lucky enough to own an oceanfront condo in Aruba—it's also an investment opportunity that's about to become even more lucrative.**

The Caribbean has long been a haven for those seeking an escape from the cold, offering an unbeatable mix of stunning landscapes, warm weather, and a relaxed lifestyle. From December to April, the region bursts with life as snowbirds flock to its shores, transforming the Caribbean into a vibrant, sun-soaked paradise. During these months, average temperatures range from 76°F in the Bahamas to a perfect 83°F in Aruba, making it a top destination for winter getaways. But what's really driving the market now is the shift to hybrid working, which allows people to extend their stays from a few weeks to several months. This trend is redefining how and where people choose to live, and the Caribbean—Aruba in particular—is reaping the benefits.

Since 2019, the prime residential property market across the Caribbean has seen steady growth, even in the face of a global pandemic. Buyers are increasingly seeking out second homes or retirement spots, willing to pay top dollar for a slice of paradise. Prices for luxury properties range dramatically—from \$650 per square foot for off-beach villas in Antigua to a staggering \$2,780 per square foot for beachfront villas in the Cayman Islands.

So, why is Aruba the place to watch? Beyond its world-renowned beaches, safe environment, and solid infrastructure, several factors suggest that prices for oceanfront condos and homes are set to climb even higher.

## Limited Supply, Surging Demand

The Aruban government has placed a moratorium on new condo developments, restricting the supply of new properties at a time when demand is skyrocketing. Tourist numbers are on the rise, expected to jump from just over 1 million in 2022 to more than 1.4 million by 2024. Many of these visitors are not just tourists—they're potential buyers. With little oceanfront land left to develop, the laws of supply and demand suggest that prices will only continue to rise. North American buyers, in particular, are snapping up beachfront properties, driving prices higher as available inventory dwindles.

## Aruba's Prices Are a Bargain—For Now

Compared to other top-tier beach destinations, Aruba's luxury condos are currently a steal:

- The Bahamas: \$735-\$2,000/sq-ft
- Antigua & Barbuda: \$665-\$1,250/sq-ft
- Barbados: \$750-\$1,400/sq-ft
- Cayman Islands: \$1,140-\$2,780/sq-ft
- Turks & Caicos: \$1,100-\$1,500/sq-ft

- Ft. Lauderdale, FL: \$800-\$1,100/sq-ft

- Aruba: \$600-\$800/sq-ft

But this won't last. As the market tightens and demand continues to surge, Aruba's prices are expected to rise sharply, bringing them more in line with other premium Caribbean islands. Expect to see more multi-million dollar homes hit the market as the island becomes an increasingly attractive option for affluent buyers.

## Appealing to High-Income Visitors

Aruba is gearing up to welcome more affluent visitors, with the opening of a new St. Regis hotel in late 2024 and a refurbishment of the Hyatt under new ownership. These developments signal a shift towards a higher-end market, much like what's been seen in the Turks & Caicos and the Cayman Islands. While Aruba's diverse appeal will remain, the influx of wealthier tourists is likely to boost demand for luxury real estate, driving prices even higher.

## Robust Rental Returns

For many buyers, owning a piece of the Caribbean isn't just about having a dream vacation home—it's also a savvy investment. The rental market in Aruba remains strong, especially as tourism continues to bounce back post-pandemic. With the rise of longer stays due to remote working, rental returns are likely to grow, making ownership even more attractive. Whether



you're looking to rent out your property during the high season or enjoy it yourself, the potential for strong rental income is yet another reason why investing in Aruba's oceanfront condos makes sense.

## Conclusion: The Time to Invest Is Now

Aruba's prime residential market is on the cusp of significant growth. The island's appeal—a combination of natural beauty, safety, strong infrastructure, and an inviting climate—combined with limited supply and increasing demand, is setting the stage for a surge in oceanfront condo prices. With prices still low compared to other Caribbean hotspots, now is the time to invest. Don't wait too long—Aruba's oceanfront condos are poised to become some of the most coveted real estate in the Caribbean. □

62 units

1, 2 & 3 br

Ocean Views

High Speed Internet

Top-of-the Line Finishes

Security & Valet Parking

Roof top pool overlooking the Caribbean

Fitness Center

CASA PLAYA  
RESIDENCES ARUBA

A PROJECT BY

PANA  
GROUP

In the best block of a revitalized Oranjestad

[www.casaplayaruba.com](http://www.casaplayaruba.com)  
[info@casaplayaruba.com](mailto:info@casaplayaruba.com) +297-565-4221  
[info@bluearubarealty.com](mailto:info@bluearubarealty.com) +297-594-6395

where  
timeless  
charm  
MEETS  
MODERN  
LIVING





**THE WEST DECK**  
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

www.thewestdeck.com

Open daily from:  
10:30 AM to 10:30 PM

Tel: +297 587 2667

reservations@thewestdeck.com

### 3 COURSE MENU

AVAILABLE STARTING AT 6PM

<p><b>Pick One Item</b></p> <p><b>Fish cake Slider</b> Peruvian Yellow Chili Mayo</p> <p><b>Stuffed "Fried Funchi"</b> Layers of fried Polenta, Ground Beef &amp; Gouda Cheese</p> <p><b>Creamy Seafood Soup</b> Fried Pan Batil</p>	<p><b>Pick One Item</b></p> <p><b>Mahi &amp; Calamari Combo</b> White Rice &amp; Mixed Vegetables Tomato-Basil Sauce</p> <p><b>Beef Stroganoff</b> White Rice and Green Beans</p>	<p><b>Pick One Item</b></p> <p><b>Mango Sorbet</b> Fresh Berries</p> <p><b>Sweet Potato</b> &amp; Coconut Bavarian</p>
--	---	--

**\$ 33.50**  
+ 15% service charge

Price includes  
a glass of Sangria

## Aruba: The island of Aloes



**ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.**

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains

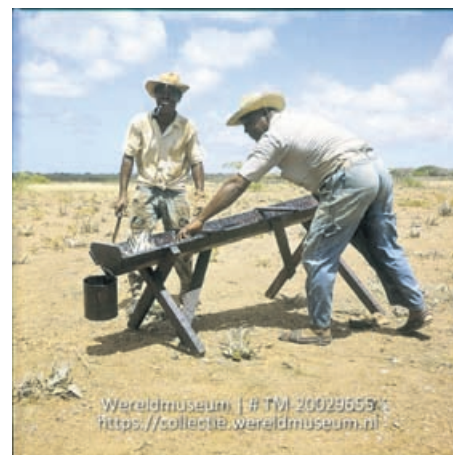
a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil indus-



try arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe



is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please

do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



**Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.**

**50/30**  
*Friday!*

We're giving away  
**\$50 Free Slot Play**  
to lucky slot and table  
game players **every**  
**30 minutes** from  
**7pm to Midnight!**

### THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins | M8 Botique  
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More  
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | Moments & Memories Jewelry  
Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove  
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard | The Market  
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts  
*Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila*

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 588.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.**

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging. Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the

Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

**The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.**

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba

10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:  
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors  
Mr. Randolph & Mrs. Wanda Laing from Glen Allen Virginia, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba is safe.
- "Anniversary celebration every year"
- "Renaissance staff are all wonderful"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □







**QUALITY APARTMENTS AND SUITES**



www.arubaqualityapartments.com

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).  
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.  
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

**FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.**  
Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697

**+1 866 470 1411**  
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 593 9647  
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

## Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

**(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.**

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves.

The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't

think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew



quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: [visitaruba.com](http://visitaruba.com)

## Episode CXLVI - 146 Aruba's medicinal plants

**Our goal at Etnia Nativa is to raise cultural awareness, promoting education and to safeguard our heritage as the sacred mother seed for renewal and reinvention, guiding you to become the next and a new guardian of Aruba.**

Trough thousands of years cultures of the ancient world experimented with the healing power of plants. Regaining ones vital powers and health was essential for any groups survival. Plants were considered the main source from where to extract healing powers due to their chemical compositions contained in leaves, flowers, stem or root, fruits and saps. Through different prepara-

tion methods, they could prepare different potions which in many cases still are being applied to treat various ailments. This could be of a simple headache to more serious ailments.

Today we see that medicinal plants and ancient knowledge are an intricate part of pharmaceutical research, whether it is for the benefit of man kind or the contrary.

The use of plants for medicine dates back to ancient times and civilizations. Evidence of the used of medicinal herbs in Egypt dates back to around 1550 BC, as did the Greeks in the 16th century BC. Healing plants were also common

during the Middle Ages. In the 19th and 20th centuries, folk knowledge of medicinal plants were passed from generation to generation, attributing the practice mainly women healers, who applying plants and herbs to treat common diseases and ailments.

For an infusion, the active ingredients of the plant are dissolved in water by boiling it in to a drink. If it need to be applied to an external affected area, the part of the plant that contains the healing properties is crushed and applied. A direct way to ingest certain medicinal herbs is to eat them, for example, in a salad, like a tea or mixed into a syrups or honey. Plants

can also be mashed in to a mortar mixed with oils of certain seeds in order to be applied on wounds or skin deseses. In our case ancient Aruban cultures have also applied a wide variety of medicinal plants to treat their ilneses.

Following I will share some of the most comon plant that an native aruban will use with out any hasitation when for example sor throat is threatening or as and agent against the poisonous nature of the sting-ing hairs of Jatropha urens or Bringa mosa\* ( \* Papiamento).

For a sore throat local people will go in to the country side to look for Roots of The Seida\* Jatropha gossypifolia. This is cleaned and boiled in to gargela potion, allowed to cool and gargled with excellent results

and quickly relieves the uncomfortable sore throat.

Another plant that is often used for asthma is Datura metel, commonly known in our Papiamentu language as "Yerba stinky\*". Oddly enough, but popular history tells that the leaves of this plant are smoked to cleanse the lungs.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of this cozy home-atelier called "Etnia Nativa". This private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet the acclaimed columnist at home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com) □



**Article by: Etnia Nativa**

Whatsapp us +297 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience

Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels





# National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

## Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which con-

tains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

## The Landscape

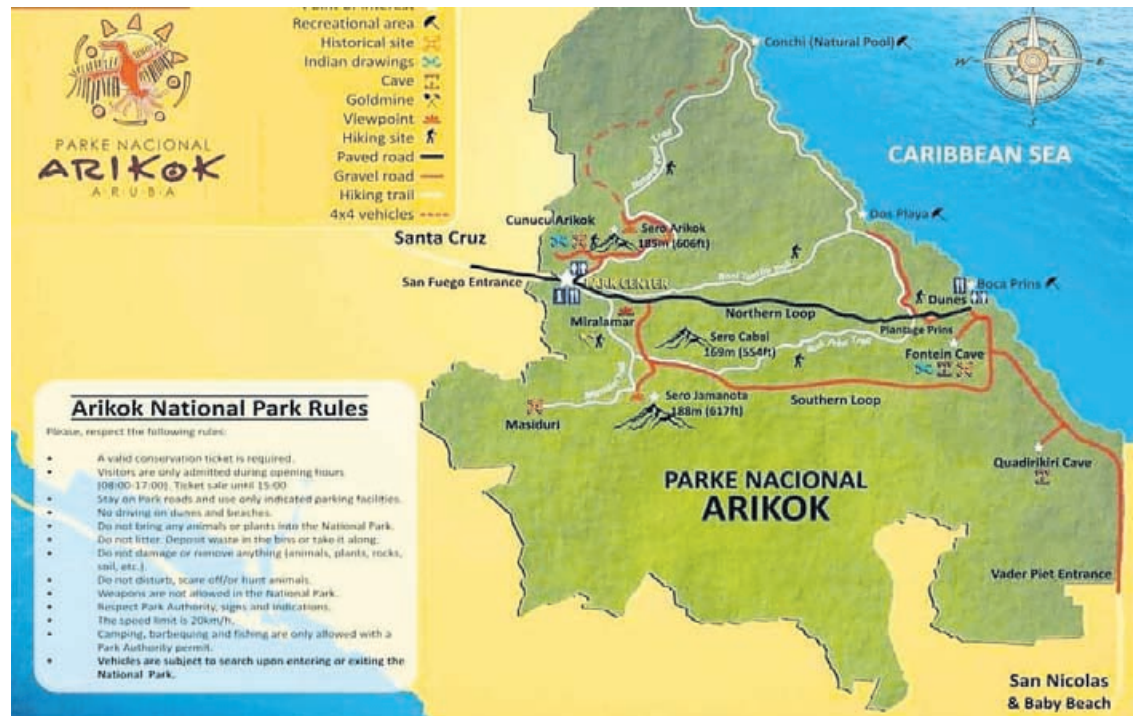
There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is an adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

## Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock



paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban

mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

## Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares

while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □





## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Correct, as text
- 1 High point
- 5 Fleet makeup
- 10 Casual talks
- 12 Athlete's TV
- 13 Trip and fall
- 15 Count start
- 16 Flying mammal
- 17 Under the weather
- 18 Comment
- 20 Aid in crime
- 21 Embankment
- 22 Eye part
- 23 Missouri tribe
- 25 Use incisors
- 28 Trunk
- 31 Bleachers features
- 32 Says
- 34 Santa — winds
- 35 Old hand
- 36 Mardi Gras city
- 37 "Join the club!"

### DOWN

- 1 Cast member
- 2 Designer Coco
- 3 Challenging words
- 4 Summer on the Seine
- 5 Close
- 6 That fellow
- 7 Drink
- 8 Common allergen
- 9 Does refinery work
- 11 Buffalo NHL team
- 14 Roll the dice, say
- 19 Attests
- 20 Watchful
- 24 Became known
- 25 Drain covers
- 26 Generic
- 27 Come to
- 29 Belgrade's nation
- 30 Set straight
- 33 Categorizes
- 35 Knee protectors
- 38 Finale
- 39 Travel aid

C	A	W	S		E	M	I	T	S
A	S	H	E		N	O	L	I	T
C	L	O	D		S	A	L	M	O
H	A	L	I	B	U	T		E	R
E	N	E	M	I	E	S		L	A
		E	N	S		M	A	G	E
S	T	A	N	D		L	A	G	E
P	I	N	T		S	A	G		
E	N	D		S	P	I	N	A	C
R	H	O		P	I	R	A	N	H
M	A	R	L	I	N		T	O	I
S	T	R	O	K	E		E	D	N
S	A	T	E	S		S	E	A	S

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16				17	
18			19				20		
	21						22		
			23			24			
25	26	27			28		29	30	
31					32				33
34				35				36	
37			38				39		
40						41			
42							43		

3-26

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-26

### CRYPTOQUOTE

YJR AE ZYIRV FRGBWER YJR

AE ZYIRV. JY KRB EYJ AE

JRRVRV QYK ZYIAJN.

— OBWZY GYZXY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRINGTIME IS THE LAND AWAKENING. THE MARCH WINDS ARE THE MORNING YAWN. — LEWIS GRIZZARD

## SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

### King Classic Sudoku

				1	6		2	3
2		6			5	4		
	4		2				9	
9	2							6
3				6				
		7				9	5	
	5		6	8				9
7	9							4
4			7			1		2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/18

### Answer to previous puzzle

9	2	5	7	1	3	8	4	6
8	1	7	5	4	6	3	9	2
6	3	4	9	8	2	7	1	5
5	9	1	8	2	7	4	6	3
3	7	2	4	6	5	1	8	9
4	8	6	1	3	9	2	5	7
2	5	8	6	7	4	9	3	1
7	4	9	3	5	1	6	2	8
1	6	3	2	9	8	5	7	4

Difficulty: ★★★

10/17

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

### Supermarket hours

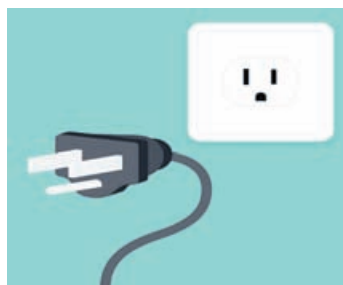


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier, mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

24/7



# Whooping cough is at a decade-high level in U.S.



This 2016 illustration provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention depicts *Bordetella pertussis* bacteria, which causes whooping cough, based on electron microscope imagery  
Associated Press

By **DEVI SHASTRI**  
AP Health Writer

**MILWAUKEE (AP)**—Whooping cough is at its highest level in a decade for this time of year, U.S. health officials reported Thursday. There have been 18,506 cases of whooping cough reported so far, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. That's the most at this point in the year since 2014, when cases topped 21,800. The increase is not unexpected whooping cough peaks every three to five years, health experts said. And the numbers indicate a return to levels before the coronavirus pandemic, when whooping cough and other contagious illnesses plummeted. Still, the tally has some state health officials concerned, including those in Wisconsin, where there have been about 1,000 cases so far this year, compared to a total of 51 last year. Nationwide, CDC has reported that kindergarten vaccination rates dipped last year and vaccine exemptions are at an all-time high. Thursday, it released state figures, showing that about 86% of kindergartners in Wisconsin got the whooping cough vaccine, compared to more than 92%

nationally. Whooping cough, also called pertussis, usually starts out like a cold, with a runny nose and other common symptoms, before turning into a prolonged cough. It is treated with antibiotics. Whooping cough used to be very common until a vaccine was introduced in the 1950s, which is now part of routine childhood vaccinations. It is in a shot along with tetanus and diphtheria vaccines. The combo shot is recommended for adults every 10 years. "They used to call it the

100-day cough because it literally lasts for 100 days," said Joyce Knestrick, a family nurse practitioner in Wheeling, West Virginia. Whooping cough is usually seen mostly in infants and young children, who can develop serious complications. That's why the vaccine is recommended during pregnancy, to pass along protection to the newborn, and for those who spend a lot of time with infants. But public health workers say outbreaks this year are hitting older kids and teens. In Pennsylvania, most out-

breaks have been in middle school, high school and college settings, an official said. Nearly all the cases in Douglas County, Nebraska, are schoolkids and teens, said Justin Frederick, deputy director of the health department. That includes his own teenage daughter. "It's a horrible disease. She still wakes up after being treated with her antibiotics in a panic because she's coughing so much she can't breathe," he said. It's important to get tested and treated with antibiotics early, said Dr. Kris Bryant, who specializes in pediatric infectious diseases at Norton Children's in Louisville, Kentucky. People exposed to the bacteria can also take antibiotics to stop the spread. "Pertussis is worth preventing," Bryant said. "The good news is that we have safe and effective vaccines." □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028

#### San Nicolas:

San Lucas: Tel. 584 5119

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank  
Tel. 588 0002  
FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400  
Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888  
Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433  
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on  
**Facebook**



facebook.com/arubatoday/



### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

### Editors

Pilar Flores  
Richard Brooks  
Angenette Figuero

### Sales

Mark Gomes  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
f @arubatoday



# Sean Baker's improvised road to 'Anora'

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sean Baker's interest in the lives of sex workers began with his 2012 drama "Starlet." For that film, set around the adult film world of San Fernando Valley, Baker spent time listening to the stories of sex workers. Some co-starred in the movie. Many became friends. "I remember being on set and Radium Cheung, my DP, was like, 'There's a whole other movie. And there's a whole other movie,'" Baker recalls. "I was like, 'There's a million stories to be told in this world.'"

Since then, Baker has traversed a wide swath of America in films set everywhere from West Hollywood donut shops to industrial rural Texas. But he has kept the lives of sex workers in focus. The iPhone-shot "Tangerine" (2015) is about a pair of Los Angeles trans sex workers out to avenge a cheating boyfriend. In "The Florida Project" (2017), a single mother turns to sex work to support herself and her daughter in an Orlando motel. "Red Rocket" (2021) comically captures a washed-up porn star.

When his latest film "Anora," starring Mikey Madison as a Brooklyn exotic dancer who spontaneously marries the son of a Russian oligarch, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, Baker dedicated the award to "all sex workers, past, present and future."



Sean Baker poses for a portrait to promote the film "Anora" on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, in New York. Associated Press

It was a crowning moment for the 53-year-old who has long considered the French festival the pinnacle.

"It was the dream. You're sort of in an existential crisis after that. I'm still figuring it out, quite honestly," Baker said in a recent interview. "It's not about opening doors. It's certainly not about trying to get into the studio. To tell you the truth, it does the exact opposite. It says: OK, good. Now we can continue to do this."

Baker, a resolutely independent filmmaker, is less comfortable at center stage than he is behind the camera. His movies, likewise, relish the communities of seldom-

chronicled American subcultures. Samantha Quan, a producer of "Anora" and Baker's wife, says he has always been interested in "people and situations that are always there but people choose not to see them."

But "Anora," one of the year's most acclaimed movies, has brought Baker perilously close to the mainstream. "Anora" is widely considered a contender for best picture at the Academy Awards, alongside other categories including best actress for its lauded young star. Baker has arrived at this moment despite charting what, nowadays, is an unconventional path for a filmmaker.

He has no interest in television or franchise movies, remaining devoted to the big screen. He makes scrappy indie movies built from real-life experience and research that balance both screwball comedy and social realism. "Anora" is the unusual film to draw comparisons to both British social realists like Mike Leigh, a favorite of Baker's, and masters of farce like Ernst Lubitsch.

In a Hollywood that churns out big-budget fantasies, Baker has ascended by crafting what you might call anti-fairy tales. His movies suggest there's something bankrupt in what and who we collectively value. In "An-

ora," Madison's Ani isn't the only one selling herself. The Russian oligarch's henchmen are doing a job they'd rather not. The transactional nature of everything is both absurd and tragic.

"I don't want to say in any way that I ever faced the hardships of an undocumented immigrant or a marginalized sex worker," he says. "But being an independent filmmaker for 30 years, there was a hustle. Up until fairly recently, I was struggling to pay rent."

Baker grew up in New Jersey outside New York City. He attended film school at NYU. When he began, he envisioned himself making "Die Hard."

But as his exposure to art-house and international film expanded, so did his interests as a filmmaker. Still, his Richard Linklater-influenced first feature, 2000's "Four Letter Words," drew heavily from his suburban upbringing.

But in the four years between that film and his next, he "finally" had some life experience, he says. Baker became less interested in himself than in other parts of the world. He also developed a debilitating drug addiction that took years to shake. While living above a Chinese restaurant, Baker would talk to the delivery people, many of them undocumented immigrants, in the stairwell. Those conversations led to "Take Out," co-directed with Shih-Ching Tsou. □

# Entertainment and lifestyle titan Barry Diller will have memoir out next spring

By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Barry Diller has a memoir coming out next spring, covering a life that could fill multiple volumes. Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that Diller's "Who Knew" will be released May 20, following his rise from the mail room of the William Morris Agency to the heights of wealth and influence. His many achievements range from producing "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Saturday Night Fever" to founding

the Fox Broadcasting Company.

"I've had a history with telling stories and I thought mine was a good yarn if I could write it myself and tell it truthfully. I welcome it being out there for others to judge, and hopefully enjoy," Diller, 82, said in a statement.

He will also write about his marriage to Diane von Fürstenberg and his current position as chairman and CEO of the holding company IAC, where brands include Tinder, Expedia and

such magazines as People and Travel + Leisure.

"Barry Diller's book is about much more than business. It is a remarkably honest and entertaining account of his personal journey, an unconventional love story, and a fascinating tour through show business and digital media," Jonathan Karp, CEO of Simon & Schuster and book's editor, said in a statement. "Readers know when an author is telling the truth, and 'Who Knew' is delightfully candid on every page, in addi-

tion to being full of insights about our lives at work."

Financial terms for Diller's book deal were not disclosed. He was represented by Robert Barnett, the Washington attorney whose clients range from Barbra Streisand to former President Bill Clinton. Earlier this year, "Who Knew" was listed on Amazon.com as an Alfred A. Knopf release but was then removed. When asked about the apparent change in publishers, Barnett declined comment. □



This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "Who Knew" by Barry Diller. Associated Press





# ELEVATE *Your Points*

## PLAY & DINING CREDIT PRIZES

250 POINTS	500 POINTS	750 POINTS	1,000 POINTS	2,000+ POINTS
\$25	\$50	\$75	\$150	\$250
PLAY CREDIT	PLAY CREDIT	PLAY CREDIT	\$100 PLAY CREDIT \$50 F&B VOUCHER	\$150 PLAY CREDIT \$100 F&B VOUCHER

THE CASINO AT  
**THE RITZ-CARLTON**  
ARUBA

## Emma Hayes names USWNT roster for first matches since winning gold at the Olympics



The United States team players stand with their gold medals during the medal ceremony after the women's soccer gold medal match between Brazil and the United States at the Parc des Princes during the 2024 Summer Olympics, Aug. 10, 2024, in Paris, France.

Associated Press

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Soccer Writer

Trinity Rodman will miss a trio of upcoming matches for the U.S. women's national soccer team as she continues to recover from a back injury. Coach Emma Hayes named her roster Thursday for games against Iceland on Oct. 24 in Austin, Texas, and Oct. 27 in Nashville. The Americans then host Argentina on Oct. 30 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The matches are the first for the United States since winning the gold medal at the Paris Olympics. The roster includes 18 members of the team that played in France, but also a handful of newcomers to the team.

"For me, it's just about evolving. The Olympics form a great basis and is a great foundation for us. But it's not a future predictor for success," Hayes said. "We have to make sure we drive the key messages home to all of the players. ... I feel like we've already got a great understanding of our principles, we just need to evolve it to the next step."

Hayes called up 26 players for the camp, but will suit up 23 players for each match. Rodman, who plays for the

Washington Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League, suffered an intense back spasm that caused her to leave the field by wheelchair in a match against the Kansas City Current last month. She was a substitute in the Spirit's victory last weekend over Racing Louisville, playing for the first time since the injury. She'll continue her rehab with the team in preparation for the NWSL playoffs. Also missing from the roster because of injury was Spirit rookie Croix Bethune, who sustained a torn meniscus that ended her season, and defender Tierna Davidson, who was injured last weekend playing for Gotham. Forward Crystal Dunn was unavailable because of "personal commitments," US Soccer said.

Hayes included six players in camp who could play in their first matches for the United States: midfielder Hal Hershfelt, defender Emily Sams, center back Eva Gaetino, defender Alyssa Malonson, forward Yazmeen Ryan and forward Emma Sears.

Hayes did not include players from the recent under-20 Women's World Cup team that finished with the bronze

medal at the event in Colombia last month. The United States is planning on a "Futures Camp" at the team's traditional January training camp. "As far as older players the door's never closed," Hayes said Thursday about including veteran players who haven't had call-ups. "That's why I call it a Futures Camp, because there might have been some more senior players, more experienced players, that are equally entitled to be in camp now. And I don't want to shut the door, even in January. So a futures player could be a more experienced NWSL player that didn't get a look now that I really want to look at."

The U.S. team will honor veteran defender Kelley O'Hara with a retirement ceremony at halftime in Nashville.

The matches are the last for the United States on home soil. The team will play a match against England at Wembley Stadium on Nov. 30 and another against the Netherlands at Bingol Stadium in the Hague on Dec. 3.

U.S. roster:

Goalkeepers: Jane Campbell (Houston Dash), Casey Murphy (North Carolina Courage), Alyssa Naeher (Chicago Red Stars)

Defenders: Emily Fox (Arsenal), Eva Gaetino (Paris Saint-Germain), Naomi Girma (San Diego Wave), Casey Krueger (Washington Spirit), Hailie Mace (Kansas City Current), Alyssa Malonson (Bay FC), Jenna Nighswonger (Gotham FC), Emily Sams (Orlando Pride), Emily Sonnett (Gotham FC)

Midfielders: Korbin Albert (Paris Saint-Germain), Sam Coffey (Portland Thorns), Hal Hershfelt (Washington Spirit), Lindsey Horan (Lyon), Rose Lavelle (Gotham FC), Olivia Moultrie (Portland Thorns), Ashley Sanchez (North Carolina Courage) □



New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu reacts after making a three-point basket during the second half against the Minnesota Lynx in Game 3 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

## Liberty hope their last-second shot provides a new outcome, a WNBA title, rather than 1999's letdown

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It's been 25 years since the New York Liberty had a chance to close out a WNBA championship. Just like in 1999, a last-second shot gave them the opportunity to play for a title.

This time around, the Liberty are hoping for a different outcome.

Twenty-five years after Teresa Weatherspoon hit "The Shot" to even up the Finals series against Houston, Sabrina Ionescu nailed a 28-footer with a second left Wednesday night to give New York a 2-1 lead in its best-of-five series with the Lynx. The Liberty's first chance to close out the series is Friday night in Game 4.

In 1999, the Comets and Liberty played the next day and the Liberty lost that game for the championship.

"I haven't thought about that, in the sense of they didn't go out and achieve what it is that they wanted to do," Ionescu said. "I

think for us, it's going to be changing that scripted narrative a little bit."

Ionescu's shot gave New York its own spot in history as it's the first time that the franchise has ever led a Finals series in its six appearances in the championship round.

"It would mean everything. Stephen A. (Smith) was on today just talking (about) how it brings him chills to think about a championship in New York, and it's just so many people who have New York running deep in their veins, wanting a championship," Ionescu said. "And knowing that we're doing that to other people's lives through the way we play and bring them happiness and joy, that's what sport is about."

Minnesota will try and force a decisive Game 5 in New York on Sunday. The Lynx are looking for their own history as two straight wins would give the franchise five championships, breaking a tie for the most in league history with Houston and Seattle. □





THE CASINO AT  
**THE RITZ-CARLTON**  
ARUBA

**WIN \$12,000**

**EVERY SATURDAY TILL NOVEMBER 16TH**

Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 300 points /\$150 theoretical win or with every \$150 check at Casa Nonna New York, BLT Steak or Divi Lounge.

**WEEKLY PRIZES**

6 WINNERS OF <b>\$1,000</b> CASH 9:00PM - 11:00PM	1 WINNER OF <b>\$1,500</b> CASH 11:30PM	9 WINNERS OF <b>\$500</b> SLOT CREDIT 11:00PM - 12:00AM
--	--	--

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

## Chef's kiss: Davante Adams' arrival means more to cook up for Jets' offensive game planner



New York Jets wide receiver Davante Adams speaks to reporters at the team's facility in Florham Park, N.J., on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024.

Associated Press

**By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.**  
AP Pro Football Writer  
**FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)**  
— The way Todd Downing sees it, Davante Adams' arrival means he'll be able to cook up even more for the New York Jets' offense. With a heaping helping of

Adams catching passes from Aaron Rodgers, of course. "As a chef, you would want a bunch of ingredients, right?" said Downing, who replaced Nathaniel Hackett last week as the Jets' offensive play caller. "You

wouldn't want to stand in a kitchen and be looking for something in the cupboard. So it's a good problem to have that we have all these really cool ingredients."

Adams was acquired from Las Vegas on Tuesday and expects to play Sunday night at Pittsburgh, renewing his on-field connection with Rodgers. The two were teammates in Green Bay for eight seasons, with Adams catching 615 passes for 7,517 yards and 68 touchdowns from Rodgers during that time.

That pre-existing rapport should give Adams an advantage in quickly getting up to speed with the Jets' offense.

"Yeah, certainly ahead of the curve," said Downing, New York's pass game coordinator and quarterbacks coach. "Being able to do that Spanish-to-English with Aaron, I think is

something that is really going to benefit him. They can even go back to old signals they had together to help remind them of things, so they have that connection and that chemistry."

The challenge now for Downing is trying to fully maximize the talent he has on the roster, which also includes wide receivers Garrett Wilson, Allen Lazard and Mike Williams, running backs Breece Hall and Braelon Allen and tight end Tyler Conklin.

"Just tell Aaron to throw to the open guy," Downing said with a smile. "That's the easy part."

He was joking, but the Jets' offense — ranked No. 22 overall — should get a considerable boost from Adams. It also clouds the role of some of the playmakers already on the roster. While Wilson should be the primary beneficiary of Adams' presence because

he'll likely see fewer double teams, Williams could see fewer snaps and might now be expendable. An offseason free agent signing, Williams was having trouble connecting with Rodgers, who has been intercepted on the Jets' final offensive series in the past two games on throws to the former Chargers wide receiver.

On Monday night against Buffalo, Rodgers appeared to slightly underthrow Williams and his toss was intercepted by a diving Taron Johnson. The quarterback later said Williams was not in the right spot.

Williams sat out the team's walkthrough Wednesday and practice Thursday for what the Jets said was for personal reasons, fueling speculation he could be on his way out in a potential trade. Downing said he has no concerns about Williams' focus. □